

Introduction to the Major

Geography examines why places are different, how those differences shape how we live, and how we in turn shape our environments.

Geographers use place, scale, and space to understand Earth's physical, ecological, and socioeconomic processes in order to tackle societal and environmental problems. Clark geography majors gain a broad and in-depth knowledge relevant to such problems, and develop the skills needed to apply that knowledge in a wide range of career settings such as urban or environmental planning, development, education, governance, and conservation. Students learn directly from dynamic, accessible, internationally renowned faculty in a top-ranked program that is over a century old.



Highlights

The Human Environment Research Observatory (HERO) program provides opportunities for undergraduates to conduct impactful research and inform policies related to social and environmental challenges in Massachusetts and beyond. Clark Geography offers a 4+1 B.A./M.S. in Geographic Information Science (GIS) and the Center for Geospatial Analytics is pioneering the integration of GIS with innovative technologies such as AI to address environmental and societal problems globally.

"The emphasis on teaching students to tackle the most pressing issues while instilling the need for social change drew me to geography at Clark."

- Erica Issenberg '18, Environmental & Climate Researcher, Howard Center



What can I do with my major?

JOBS & EMPLOYERS

Our graduates work in planning, conservation, GIS, environmental science, climate resilience, and other fields for employers including The Nature Conservancy, The United Nations, Google, ESRI, a wide range of regional and urban planning agencies, and academic institutions.

GRADUATE PROGRAMS

Alumni have pursued advanced study in geography, community development, architecture, ecology, and more at top schools including MIT, Yale, California Polytechnic State University, and Oxford.

Foundational Courses

Core courses emphasize fundamental geographic concepts over four distinct areas of study.

The curriculum builds frameworks for understanding the earth, space, and place in a physical and human context.

- Human environmental geography
- Urban economic geography
- Earth system science
- Geographic information science

YOUR CLARK EXPERIENCE



Discover and Demonstrate your Purpose



Cultivate Your Communities



Engage Locally & Globally



Develop your Professional Identity

Year 1



Explore campus resources

Stop by Jefferson Academic Center to meet geography faculty and staff. Visit the Goddard library, the Writing Center, the Career Lab in ASEC, and other campus resources.



Get connected

Check out the student-run Clark Undergraduate Geography Association (CUGA), and other student clubs and activities that resonate with you.



Discover off-campus

Check out activities in the community beyond Clark through the Outing Club and other organizations. Attend Practicing Geography Week events and off-campus field trips.

Visit Clark's very own forest at The Hadwen Arboretum with 26 acres of woodland green space in the Heart of Worcester.

Year 3



Plan for senior year and beyond

Take a seminar in a program area you have not tried. Join a professional association such as the American Association of Geographers (AAG). Explore if graduate school or the 4+1 Accelerated Master's Degree is right for you.



Become a researcher

Work with a geography faculty member or graduate student on their research, or pursue your own independent study.

Explore department and university funding opportunities for research and creative projects. Check out the CCC's Opportunity Funding page. Qualified students can participate in the Human-Environment Regional Observatory (HERO) program, an intensive summer and academic-year research effort focused on environmental change in New England.

Year 2



Dig into your major and define your interests

Work with geography staff and faculty to declare your major and explore specialization areas.



Explore career and internship opportunities

Attend a career fair to learn about potential paths. Log in to Handshake to discover summer internships and on-campus jobs.

Many students seek opportunities at organizations such as Preservation Worcester, Conservation International, and the Regional Economic Council of Central Massachusetts.



Build your resume and start networking

Attend a workshop or schedule an individual session at the Career Connections Center (CCC). Upload your resume to Handshake for review and feedback. Create a LinkedIn profile and reach out to alumni in your fields of interest.

Year 4



Represent, serve, lead

Apply to join the international honor society in geography, Gamma Theta Upsilon (GTU). Serve as a CUGA student representative at geography department meetings. Take on a role with a community organization or student club to build important skills.



Share your knowledge and give back

Present your work at ClarkFEST in the spring or fall, or at a geography conference. Work as a Peer Learning Assistant (PLA). Lead a discussion section for an introductory course.



What's next?

Update your resume, cover letter, and LinkedIn profile. Schedule a mock job interview through the Career Connections Center to get feedback. Identify faculty who know you well and will serve as references or write letters of recommendation.